

CLAIMS

1. A communication system comprising:

a stationary transceiver defining an information portal in a vicinity thereof;

a local server in communication with said transceiver, said local server being configured to respond to a mobile processing-system present within said information portal.

2. The communication system of claim 1, wherein said local server is configured to identify a mobile processing-system present within said information portal.

3. The communication system of claim 2, wherein said local server is configured to perform a function on the basis of the identity of said mobile processing-system, said function being selected from the group consisting of: providing selected data to said mobile processing-system; permitting building access to a portion of said building; controlling an elevator in said building; and providing interactive access to a network.

4. The communication system of claim 1, wherein said local server is configured to establish a communication link between said mobile processing-system in said information portal and a selected location.

5. The communication system of claim 4, wherein said communication link comprises a link selected from the group consisting of an audio link, a video link, and a two-way communication link.

6. The communication system of claim 2, further comprising an access control unit in communication with said local server, said access control unit being controlled by said local server on the basis of the identity of said mobile processing-system.

7. The communication system of claim 1, wherein said stationary transceiver is selected from the group consisting of a radio transceiver, an optical transceiver, an infrared transceiver, and an acoustic transceiver.

8. The communication system of claim 1, wherein said stationary transceiver is disposed at a location selected from the group consisting of an elevator, a building lobby, and a vehicle.

9. The communication system of claim 1, wherein said local server and said stationary transceiver are in communication across a local area network.

10. The communication system of claim 1, wherein said local server and said stationary transceiver are in wireless communication across a local area network.
11. The communication system of claim 1, further comprising a fulfillment server in communication with said local server, said fulfillment server having access to a wide area network.
12. The communication system of claim 11, wherein said local server comprises a cache for temporary accumulation of information from said fulfillment server to be relayed to said mobile processing system.
13. The communication system of claim 11, wherein said wide area network comprises a global computer network.
14. The communication system of claim 11, wherein said fulfillment server includes a user-interface for enabling a user to cause said fulfillment server to collect selected information.
15. The communication system of claim 14, wherein said fulfillment server is configured to provide said selected information to said local server when said local server identifies, within said information portal, a mobile processing unit associated with said user.
16. The communication system of claim 14, wherein said fulfillment server includes a user-interface for enabling a user to cause said fulfillment server to detect an occurrence of a condition.
17. The communication system of claim 16, wherein said fulfillment server is configured to provide information indicative of an occurrence of said condition to said local server when said local server identifies, within said information portal, a mobile processing unit associated with said user.
18. The communication system of claim 16, wherein said fulfillment server is configured to provide interactive services to said mobile processing unit.
19. A communication system comprising:

a plurality of stationary transceivers, each configured for wireless communication with a mobile processing system present in a corresponding information portal; and

a server system in communication with each of said stationary receivers, said server system having a link to a global computer network and thereby providing said mobile processing system with wireless access to said global computer network.

- 5 ~~20.~~ A method for providing a mobile processing system with wireless access to a global computer network, said method comprising:
- maintaining an information portal;
 - establishing wireless communication between said mobile processing system and a server system following entry of said mobile processing system into said information portal; and
 - 10 providing a link between said server system and said global computer network.